



By JOHN BARBOUR
Courier Staff Editor

No Loss of Spirit

A story dealing with tornado damage in Charles City that was carried in an outside paper, ended its summation with this rather cryptic comment:

"A tornado, when it touches ground, creates a vacuum that causes houses and cars to blow out."

"In Charles City and Oelwein Thursday, that vacuum sucked some of the spirit out of those who survived the tornado."

Sacrilege!
That latter statement is about as mistaken as it is possible to be and proves that the reporter who wrote it must come from some other area than Northeast Iowa.

It takes more than a vacuum to suck the spirit out of the people in Charles City, Oelwein, Maynard, Elma — or any place else hit by Wednesday's tornado.

Storm victims and volunteers alike displayed the indomitable spirit that made Iowa — particularly the Northeast section of the state — the great region that it is. If anything, they are displaying more spirit now than before the tornadoes hit.

During any crisis — local national or international — people in this area have always responded with a fervor that would make a Marine recruiter turn green with envy.

The spirit Northeast Iowans display in times of stress or tragedy can only be matched by the sincerity with which it is poured out.

Northeast Iowans losing their spirit? They may lose their homes, businesses, farms, yes, even their blood. But lose their spirit? Impossible!

The Iowa spirit means more than earthly possessions and runs deeper than the bones in the storm-battered bodies. Lose their spirit? Never!

Thoughts While Loafing

One company is working on a cigarette that has a tranquilizer in it — you may get cancer but you couldn't care less! . . . Nothing is more annoying than not being invited to a party you wouldn't get caught dead at . . . I could have married any girl I pleased — but I never pleased but one . . . My doctor says I have a persecution complex but he only says that because he hates me . . . We are going to be moving into a beautiful apartment in the hotel — overlooking the rent . . . A joint checking account lets a woman beat her husband to the draw . . . All the sidewalks in New York City run parallel to the ground . . . So we think we're civilized? All we've done is advance from shoeless toes to toehold shoes.

H. R. Gross: 'Unbelievable'

Expected Crowds Told to Keep Out

By VERYL SANDERSON
Assistant State Editor

Clean-up work is expected to get a big boost today as hundreds of volunteers converge on Northeast Iowa's tornado-stricken cities.

However, officials from the cities urge all Iowans intending to witness not to come.

Oelwein Mayor Samuel Mazzitelli issued this plea:

"We will enforce the curfew. We urge all Iowans not to come to Oelwein today as nightseers."

"There is a great deal of work to be done. Sightseers would delay this work and hold up workers trying to get into town."

Check Points

"The Iowa Highway Commission has set up check points as far out as 10 to 15 miles to question all motorists attempting to get into Oelwein." Parking lots were established around the perimeter of Oelwein where volunteers could park cars. Volunteers were bussed into town.

Similar pleas to Iowans have been issued from Charles City, Elma, Riceville and Maynard. Mayor Mazzitelli expects workmen to have all streets open for traffic by tomorrow evening.

Charles City has a dawn to dusk curfew in a 90-block area, extending through the weekend.

Insurance sources have estimated the value of insured loss in Maynard, Charles City and Oelwein at \$24.5 million. This doesn't include uninsured property or automobiles.

Architects Friday afternoon told the Charles City council for the north central Iowa Red Cross Chapter, said, "You just were demolished, not including don't move on the street at garages; 190 should be night unless you're a Red Cross demolished; and 361 could be worker or a guard. Passes can be obtained from Sheriff L. L. Lane, but they are rarely issued."

The architects urged the council to close some streets because of the danger of the demolished buildings collapsing.

Cruel Loss

Congressman H. R. Gross, who toured Charles City and Elma Thursday night and Friday, commented, "I never dreamed I could drive the full length of Charles City's main street and see such destruction. The entire town is suffering a pretty cruel economic loss."

"The Catholic church in Elma church services today, rather looks like a bomb hit it. Elma: than drive. Those wishing to was hard hit although they attend services are invited to didn't suffer total destruction come in work clothes. Like Charles City.

"Both towns are heavily

damaged and going to need all the help they can get. It's unbelievable."

Meeting Stated

Kent Hutton of the Office of Emergency Planning and other officials of agencies involved in assistance are to meet in Oelwein Wednesday morning and Charles City Wednesday afternoon to survey the damage.

At Elma, Mayor Clarence Turnit estimates the damage to his town of 725 residents to be at least \$1 million.

"It's unbelievable the cooperation we've received," Turnit emphasized. "Our good neighbors from Alta Vista, New Haven, Riceville and Cresco among others volunteered in force. Two busloads of students from Belmont came Saturday."

"We had excellent cooperation from Sheriff Percy Haven of Cresco and the Howard County Board of Supervisors. We should have the streets cleaned up by Wednesday."

Delay Building

Mayor Turnit also warned residents not to make any commitments in any way, shape or form until federal officials can explain procedures for rebuilding. "I urge all residents to delay all building plans at least a week or more," he said.

Robert Mishner, former mayor of Belmont when that community was hit by a twister last year, agreed Charles City was hit harder by Wednesday's tornado.

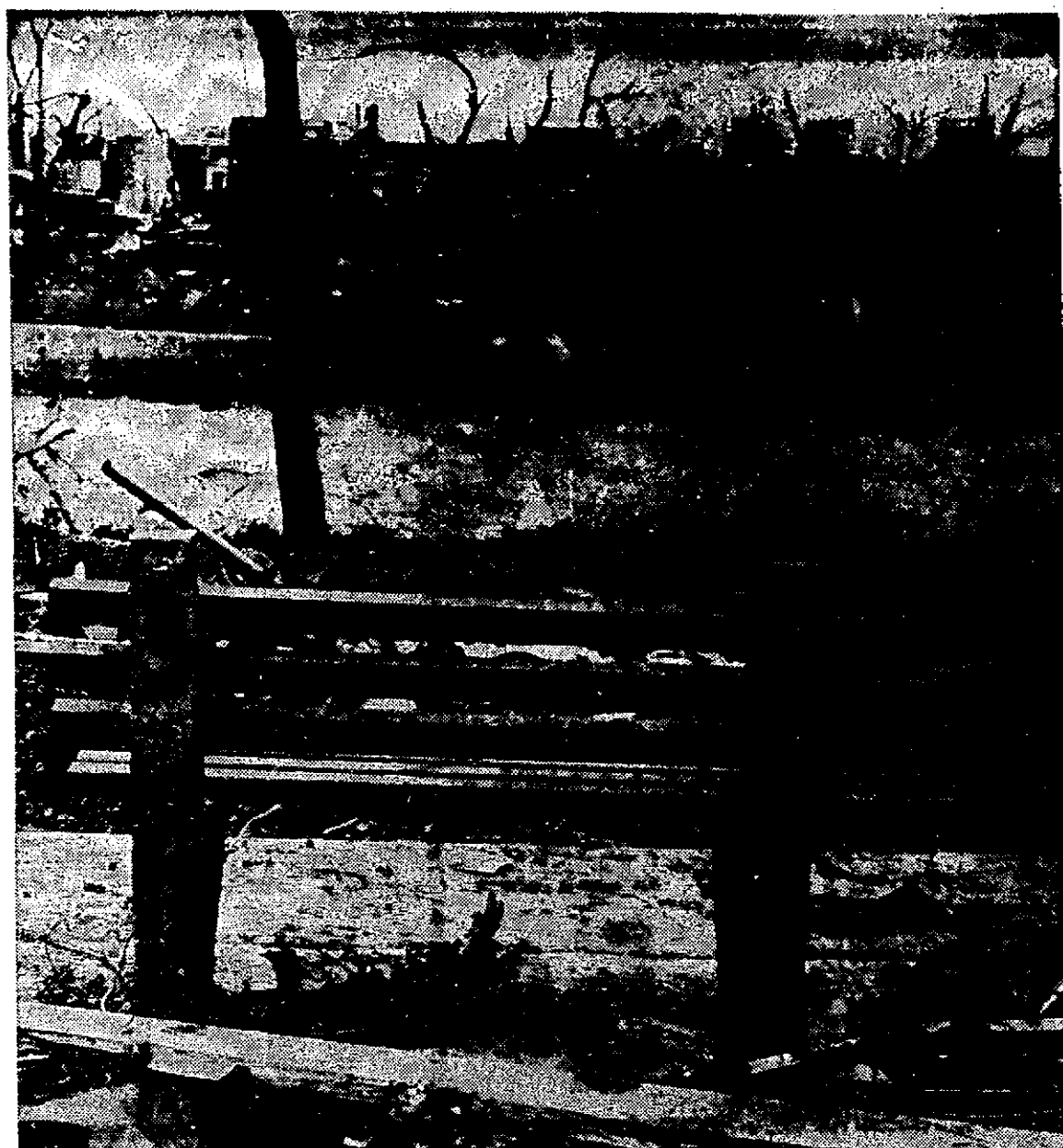
The curfew in the stricken area at Charles City is absolute. Glen Haydon, executive director of the Charles City council for the north central Iowa Red Cross Chapter, said, "You just were demolished, not including don't move on the street at garages; 190 should be night unless you're a Red Cross demolished; and 361 could be worker or a guard. Passes can be obtained from Sheriff L. L. Lane, but they are rarely issued."

Authorities have decided to convert the Charles City College dormitory into an apartment house for storm victims. Material for the conversion is to arrive this week.

Water Restored

Charles City water service was restored yesterday morning.

Churches at Charles City are requesting people walk to deliver the sermon at the baccalaureate service 8 p.m. today in the school gymnasium. Commencement exercises will be held 8 p.m. Thursday in the school gymnasium.



SCENE OF DESTRUCTION — After Wednesday afternoon's tornado the lofty elm and maple trees that once lined Charles City's peaceful river bank were stark and twisted, grotesque caricatures of what they

had been. This scene looks across the river from the demolished Cedar Valley housing project for the elderly toward what was the First Baptist Church.



ROOF BLOWN OFF — The Manual Arts Building, where Charles City basketball teams played until construction of a new high school and gymnasium on the south edge of town, lost its mid-section to the tornado that destroyed much of the city

Wednesday. Twisted girders that supported the roof were pulled from the building and now hang naked against the sky. The building at left is the Central Elementary School which was also severely damaged.

Many Familiar Sites Gone

Memories of Home Obscured by Devastation

EDITOR'S NOTE: Carolyn Holcomb, a Waterloo Courier Staff Writer, is the former Carolyn Jensen of Charles City. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jensen, she lived in Charles City for 17 years.

By CAROLYN HOLCOMB
Courier Staff Writer
CHARLES CITY — This was my home.

This scarred and treeless town had lain peacefully for more than a century along the banks of the Cedar River until jolted apart Wednesday afternoon by the worst tornado in Iowa history.

It was a pretty city. Graceful elms and maples spread a canopy along the landscaped riverbank and over the residential district. The business district, though somewhat ancient, was clean and new storefronts contrasted with the old.

It was a happy and ambitious community. A new high school, a new country club and a new hospital had been added in the last 10 years.

Backed College

Residents had backed the establishment of a college which operated for a year and then announced it would close. But what was Charles City, the town in which I grew up, is no more.

The business district and much of the residential area gone for handouts after school, was wiped out late Wednesday afternoon by a furious and capricious twister that knocked down churches and schools but left taverns and nightclubs standing.

I visited my town. Begging a ride on an old friend's tractor, I moved through the stricken area where only emergency vehicles were allowed.

Old Central

We passed the Manual Arts Building which used to be Central Grade School. It was there I first met Charles City education and on my first day of kindergarten in that building met the girl who was to be my best friend the rest of my life.

As sophomores in high school in 1956 we cheered the Charles City Comets basketball team to the state tournament from the gymnasium on the top floor of that building. The echoes of our voices are buried in the rubble. The Manual Arts Building is gone.

We passed Central Park, the "town square" in downtown Charles City, where idle afternoons were spent dreaming on park benches while business was transacted across the street. For at least 20 years a red and silver popcorn stand stood on the corner near the park, especially during the hot summer Thursday nights when the municipal band played in the park.

As high school students went to those concerts, not so

much to hear the music built to see who was there seeing counter.

Trees Uprooted

Thursday the park was still green but its trees, many of which had shaded the square lay uprooted in a tangled mass of branches, stumps and leaves. The popcorn stand lay alongside the park — its red paint stained, its metal body crumpled.

We rode past the Elks Club where my class, the "Class of '58" had scheduled its 10-year reunion for June 22. There will be no more reunions at the Elks Club, for the building, once a stout, limestone structure that looked more like a church than a lodge, was leveled.

I had mailed my reservations for the reunion Wednesday morning. My ride down Main St., while perched on the fender of a tractor some 10 feet above the ground, was somewhat inglorious compared to the many times I "dragged the strip" in my parents' car 10 years ago. Cora's Counter, where Charles City businessmen — including my father — had "solved" the world's problems and won football games morning-after-morning over coffee, was gutted.

Bakery Smashed

A bakery operated by a friend's father, where we had much of the residential area gone for handouts after school, was smashed. The theatre to which I went on my first date — we saw down churches and schools but a Hopalong Cassidy-Tarzan double feature — was demolished.

The drugstore which used to sponsor banana split eating contests for high school boys (and girls if they weren't watching their figures) had lost

Waterloo Man Takes Post at Sumner Hospital

(COURIER NEWS SERVICE) SUMNER — Samuel F. Keefer, Waterloo, has accepted the position of administrator of the Sumner Community Memorial Hospital and the Hillcrest Home, according to Dr. Richard Haw of the executive committee of the Sumner Community Club of trustees.

Keefer comes to Sumner from Allen Memorial Hospital in Waterloo and will assume duties at the hospital previously handled by Mrs. Lawrence Whitchee.

Mrs. Whitchee has served the local hospital as Superintendent for the past 16 years and will remain until July 1.

Mrs. James Nelson has supervised Hillcrest Home since Keefer received his B.A. degree from Nebraska Western University at Lincoln, Neb., and his M.A. in Hospital Administration from the State University of Iowa in 1952.

for much of the loss. Most of the town can be rebuilt, although it will take years.

But who can repair, who can pay for, the broken hearts?

Charles Cityans are hardy people who have seen and coped with trouble before.

Not the Same
But even with new buildings, federal disaster loans, insurance funds and outside encouragement the town that was my home will not look the same again in my lifetime.

The trees that gave the city its beauty will take 100 years to replace.

Roof Gone
The First Congregational

Church where I had attended Sunday School, worship services, potluck suppers, mother-daughter banquets and youth fellowship had lost a good portion of its roof.

My father had served as chairman of the building committee when a new educational annex was constructed.

Here I was married. Here my first child was baptized. Here I attended my uncle's funeral. There will be no more weddings there for a long time.

Charles City has been all but destroyed. The damage to buildings can be estimated and insurance companies will pay

for much of the loss. Most of the town can be rebuilt, although it will take years.

But who can repair, who can pay for, the broken hearts?

Charles Cityans are hardy people who have seen and coped with trouble before.

Not the Same
But even with new buildings, federal disaster loans, insurance funds and outside encouragement the town that was my home will not look the same again in my lifetime.

The trees that gave the city its beauty will take 100 years to replace.

Many of the ancient limestone buildings, constructed by the city's pioneers with material quarried nearby, which gave to the town much of its history and its pride, are gone forever.

But there will be a new source of pride.

The outside of the town, its veneer, its glamour, its charm is gone.

But the real strength of a community lies inside and is the people who live there.

They will stay and they will build. And they will find the spirit that will be their pride. Charles City is still my town.

3 GREAT STORES

Gil's SUPER VALU

• La Porte Road and Mitchell, Waterloo
• Cedarloo Between Waterloo and Cedar Falls
• Ridgeview at Ansbrough and Fourth

Prices Effective Mon., Tues., Wed., May 20, 21, 22
Right to Limit Reserved

Pure Lean

Ground Beef 49¢ Lb.

Heinz or Gerber's Strained

Baby Food . . . Jar 10¢

Super Valu

Salt 26-Oz. Tube 5¢

Swanson Frozen

Chicken Dinners . . . Pkg. 49¢

CRYSTAL

Sugar 5-Lb. Bag 49¢

Blue Seal

Margarine . . . Lb. 15¢

Texas

Carrots . . . Lb. 9¢

Farm Fresh

Eggs . . . Doz. 35¢

Fresh from Our Bakery

CINNAMON Sticks . . . Pkg. of 12 39¢

REGULAR

Kool-Aid 10 39¢ PKGS.